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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/673,867 | 09/30/2003 | Haruhiko Ikeda | N&C-101-02 | 1356 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| PADMANABHAN, KAVITA | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2161 | |

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|---|---|---|
| 3 MONTHS | 04/03/2007 | PAPER |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/673,867 | IKEDA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Kavita Padmanabhan | 2161 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 January 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *10-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *10-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/941755.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Status of Claims*

1. Claims 10-20 are pending.

2. Claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 have been amended.

3. Claims 10-20 are rejected.

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/26/07 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. **Claims 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu et al.** (US 6,289,254, hereinafter "Shimizu"), cited by applicant, **in view of Perkowski** (US 2006/0011716).

In regards to **claim 10**, **Shimizu** teaches a computer-aided design (CAD) information management system comprising:

- a user terminal connected **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1300)**, via a communication network **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1307)**, to a plurality of databases which are managed by a plurality of different manufacturers **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1308; col. 6, lines 32-37 – the databases of Shimizu are managed by a plurality of manufacturers in that the information stored therein is controlled by information that is dictated by manufacturers' parts and supplies)**, for receiving and transmitting information to/from said plurality of databases for storing at least one of CAD drawing information and specification information on a specification of a component forming a CAD drawing **(Shimizu; Abstract, Fig. 26)**, corresponding to stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)** based on input information which is inputted by user **(Shimizu; Fig. 3; col. 3, lines 51 – col. 4, line 5)**,

- wherein when CAD drawing information or specification information of a component forming a CAD drawing, corresponding to stored-destination address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, supply number)**, is inputted by user as a search condition **(Shimizu; col. 10, lines 22-29)**, said user terminal searches for the stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)**, corresponding to said stored-destination address information in said a plurality of databases **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1308)** which are managed by a plurality of different manufacturers, selects information corresponding to the stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)** from any of said plurality of databases based on the search result **(Shimizu; Fig. 10, Fig. 14, Fig. 23; col. 15, lines 27-35)**, and outputs the selected information **(Shimizu; Fig. 17, col. 16, lines 4-7)**.

Shimizu does not expressly teach the plurality of databases being respectively located at a plurality of different manufacturers.

**Perkowski** teaches a database located within the enterprise of each manufacturer that contains data relating to that manufacturer's products, including CAD drawings **(Perkowski; par [0598])**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement the system of Shimizu by maintaining each database within the enterprise of a respective manufacturer whose products' data is contained in that database, as taught by Perkowski, thereby allowing for easier maintenance of each database.

In regards to **claim 12, Shimizu** teaches a computer-aided design (CAD) information management system comprising:

- a server connected, via a communication network **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1307)**, to a plurality of databases **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1308; col. 6, lines 36-37)** which are managed by a plurality of different manufacturers, for receiving and transmitting information to/from said plurality of databases for storing at least one of CAD drawing information and specification information on a specification of a component forming a CAD drawing **(Shimizu; Abstract, Fig. 26)**, corresponding to stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)** based on input information which is inputted by user **(Shimizu; Fig. 3; col. 3, lines 51 – col. 4, line 5)**; and
- a user terminal **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1300)** connected to said server via an information transfer path **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1307)**, for receiving and transmitting information to/from said server based on input information which is inputted by user **(Shimizu; col. 6, lines 15-24)**,
- wherein when CAD drawing information or specification information of a component forming a CAD drawing, corresponding to stored-destination address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, supply number)**, is inputted by user as a search condition **(Shimizu; col. 10, lines 22-29)**, said user terminal **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1300)** requests a search in accordance with said inputted information to said server, and displays the search result of said server **(Shimizu; col. 14, lines 22-35)**, said server extracts the stored-destination address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, supply number)**

corresponding to the information in response to the search request from said user terminal **(Shimizu; col. 11, lines 6-17)**, searches for the stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)**, corresponding to said extracted stored-destination address information, in said plurality of databases which are managed by a plurality of different manufacturers based on the stored-destination address information, selects information corresponding to the stored-source address information from any of said plurality of databases based on the search result **(Shimizu; Fig. 14, Fig. 17, and Fig. 23; col. 15, lines 27-35)**, and transfers the selected information to said user terminal **(Shimizu; col. 8, lines 15-22)**.

Shimizu does not expressly teach the plurality of databases being respectively located at a plurality of different manufacturers.

**Perkowski** teaches a database located within the enterprise of each manufacturer that contains data relating to that manufacturer's products, including CAD drawings **(Perkowski; par [0598])**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement the system of Shimizu by maintaining each database within the enterprise of a respective manufacturer whose products' data is contained in that database, as taught by Perkowski, thereby allowing for easier maintenance of each database.

In regards to **claim 14**, **Shimizu and Perkowski** teach a system according to Claim 10, wherein at least one of the CAD drawing information and the specification information is stored in a distributed manner in said plurality of databases **(Shimizu; col. 7, lines 24-31)**.

**Claim 16** is rejected with the same rationale given for claim 14.

**Claim 18** is rejected with the same rationale given for claim 10.

**Claim 20** is rejected with the same rationale given for claim 12.

8. **Claims 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu in view of Perkowski, further in view of Sano** (US 6,377,964), cited by applicant.

In regards to **claim 11**, **Shimizu** teaches a computer-aided design (CAD) information management system comprising:

- a user terminal connected **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1300)**, via a communication network **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1307)**, to a plurality of databases which are managed by a plurality of different manufacturers **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1308)**, for receiving and transmitting information to/from said plurality of databases for storing at least one of CAD drawing information and specification information on a specification of a component forming a CAD drawing **(Shimizu; Abstract, Fig. 26)**, corresponding to stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)** based on input information which is inputted by user **(Shimizu; Fig. 3; col. 3, lines 51 – col. 4, line 5)**,
- wherein when CAD drawing information or specification information of a component forming a CAD drawing, corresponding to stored-destination address information

**(Shimizu; Fig. 26, supply number)**, is inputted by user as a search condition **(Shimizu; col. 10, lines 22-29)**, said user terminal searches for the stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)**, corresponding to said stored-destination address information in said a plurality of databases **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1308)** which are managed by a plurality of different manufacturers, selects information corresponding to the stored-source address information **(Shimizu; Fig. 26, reference symbol)** from any of said plurality of databases based on the search result **(Shimizu; Fig. 10, Fig. 14, Fig. 23; col. 15, lines 27-35)**, and outputs the selected information, displays the selected information, and also displays information of the selected information **(Shimizu; Fig. 17, col. 16, lines 4-7)**.

Shimizu does not expressly teach the plurality of databases being respectively located at a plurality of different manufacturers. Shimizu also does not expressly teach update information of the selected information.

**Perkowski** teaches a database located within the enterprise of each manufacturer that contains data relating to that manufacturer's products, including CAD drawings **(Perkowski; par [0598])**.

**Sano** teaches update history information **(Sano; col. 7, lines 8-27; col. 9, lines 48-63)**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement the system of Shimizu by maintaining each database within the enterprise of a respective manufacturer whose products' data is contained in that database, as taught by Perkowski, thereby allowing for easier maintenance of each database. It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to

implement the system of Shimizu including history information, as taught by Sano, thereby providing flexibility to CAD designers by allowing them to look at previous operations and manipulate the design **(Sano; col. 2, lines 16-30)**.

In regards to **claim 13, Shimizu, Perkowski, and Sano** teach a system according to Claim 11, further comprising:

- a information management means for managing at least one of the CAD drawing information and the specification information **(Shimizu; Fig. 23, col. 3, lines 25-33)**, connected to said plurality of databases **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1308, col. 6, lines 33-37)** which are respectively located at and managed by a plurality of different manufacturers,
- said information management means outputs a result determining whether or not the update request from said terminal is accepted to said terminal **(Shimizu; col. 8, lines 16-23; col. 12, lines 31-36)**, and
- wherein when receiving the result of determining that the update request is accepted from said information management means, said terminal updates at least one of the CAD drawing information and the specification information in said plurality of databases **(Shimizu; col. 8, lines 20-24)**, and adds the update history information on the update to the update information **(Sano; col. 5, lines 47-56; col. 6, lines 33-35)**.

In regards to **claim 15, Shimizu, Perkowski, and Sano** teach a system according to Claim 11, wherein at least one of the CAD drawing information and the specification

information is stored in a distributed manner in said plurality of databases **(Shimizu; col. 7, lines 24-31)**.

**Claim 17** is rejected with the same rationale given for claim 15.

In regards to **claim 19, Shimizu and Perkowski** teach a method according to Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

- by an information management apparatus which is connected communication network, managing CAD drawing information and said specification information stored by a plurality of databases, and when inputted an update request from said user terminal, outputting a result of determining whether or not the update request from said user terminal is accepted to said user terminal **(Shimizu; col. 8, lines 20-22; col. 15, line 66 – col. 16, line 6)**,
- by said user terminal **(Shimizu; Fig. 4, reference character 1300)**, when receiving the result of determining that the update request from said information management apparatus is accepted **(Shimizu; col. 12, lines 37-43)**, updating at least one of the CAD drawing information and the specification information in said plurality of databases **(Shimizu; col. 8, lines 17-22)**.

Shimizu and Perkowski do not expressly teach adding update history information on update to the update information.

**Sano** teaches history information and adding update history information on update to the update information **(Sano; col. 5, lines 47-56; col. 6, lines 33-35)**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement the method of Shimizu and Perkowski including adding the update history information, as taught by Sano, thereby providing flexibility to CAD designers by allowing them to look at previous operations and manipulate the design **(Sano; col. 2, lines 16-30)**.

### *Response to Amendment*

9. Applicant's amendments filed 1/26/07 with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of claim 19 has been fully considered. The corresponding rejection has been withdrawn accordingly.

### *Response to Arguments*

10. Applicant's arguments filed 1/26/07 with respect to the prior art rejections of the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kavita Padmanabhan** whose telephone number is **571-272-8352**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on 571-272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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March 29, 2007

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SPE, TC 2100